

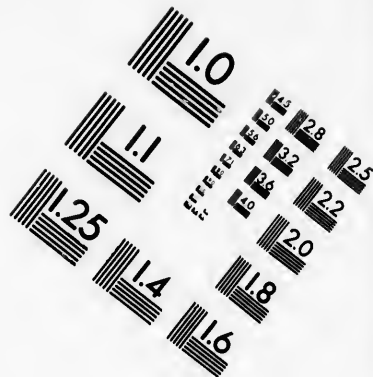
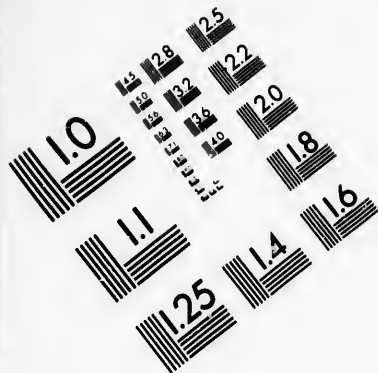
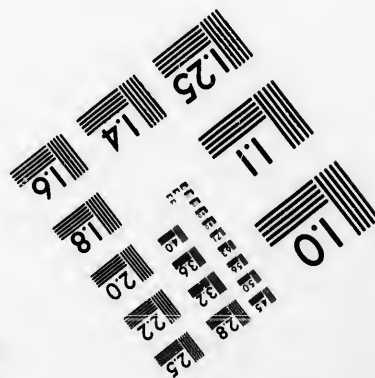
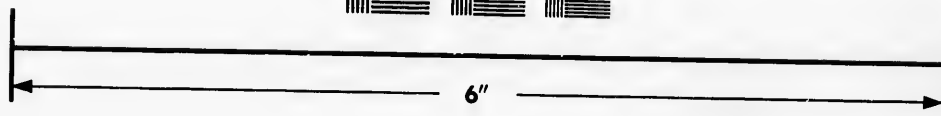
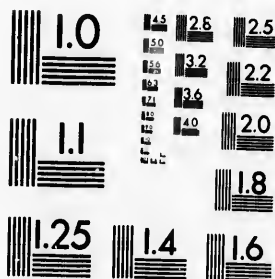


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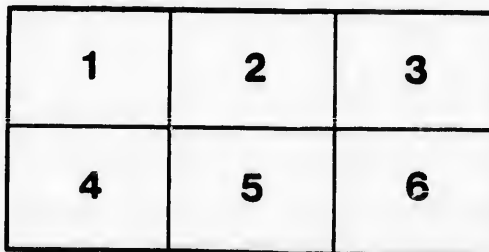
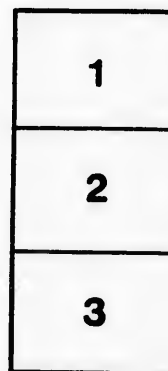
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722

HIS EXCELLENCY LORD GOSFORD,
the Governor-General of the Canadas, &c. &c.

MY LORD,

Will you permit me to recall your attention to a subject of all others, of a temporary kind, the most important to me. When your Lordship shall have leisure to reflect on this matter, and in your own mind, place yourself in my situation, your Excellency will then see that my all in this life, my every thing is at stake; and that your Lordship has my fate completely at your disposal; and that the fairest opportunity is now in your hands, to render me that justice which has been so long and so cruelly withheld. I have no doubt that the subject contained in my Memorial of the 8th of June, gives your Excellency perplexity and trouble—that many considerations of a *political nature*, offer themselves in opposition to its meeting attention, yet I cannot but hope and believe that truth and justice in their simple garb, will maintain a paramount consideration in the mind of your Excellency over every other motive. I have for many years entertained the belief that justice and *true policy* are so inseparably connected, that one cannot exist without

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the other. To your Excellency I humbly submit the correctness of this opinion. The Machiavelian system of policy, I am well aware, often presents to our view, many plausible appearances of advantage, yet however plausible, they will ultimately and invariably prove deceptive; this opinion likewise I would submit with due deference to your Excellency's superior knowledge of political science and of the history of the great family of man.

Your Excellency will remember that I had the honor of presenting a Memorial bearing date on the eighth day of June last, a period of more than six months; your Excellency will take into consideration the truth of the old adage, "hope deferred maketh the heart sick." That your Excellency is the *only* person on this side the Atlantic on whose regard for and power to do justice, I have any dependance. Should your Lordship's patience with our intestine fends become exhausted, and induce your return to more happy scenes and manners; then what have I to look for, but "flat despair?" Such considerations fill my mind with the most gloomy prospects. Your Excellency will likewise take into consideration that the weight of years, together with the encroachments made on my constitution by the battering, beating, and "pelting of the pitiless storm" for seventy two years, have made me in-

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capable of further exertion to support my own existence, or provide for the future support of a young female child, only twelve years of age. I must, in the present state of things in the course of nature, soon leave that child to a state of abject dependance, where her dependant state will be exhibited to her feelings continually, in a manner more painful than the sting of the viper!!! Your Lordship will not wonder that, my all my every thing being at stake on the sense of justice in your Excellency's bosom, I should be extremely anxious to awaken your attention to a subject, fortified not only by the claims of justice, but likewise by the claim of humanity and every sympathetic sentiment of the better feelings of the human heart: indeed, My Lord, I cannot die in peace, I cannot rest in my grave under the distressing prospect of the future fate of that child.

I have had the honor of presenting to your Excellency some *few* details of my inhuman, unequalled sufferings—sufferings which I cannot but believe loudly call for redress, and which I fully believe your Excellency, *as a man*, views in the same light. If I should ever be so happy as to obtain an inquiry, I pledge my veracity that your Lordship will find that I have made the representation far below their heinous nature, both in number and in atrocity. Allowing this to be true, what is there in nature, in justice, in the or-

der and regulations of society, that prevents *my* wrongs to meet redress? am I not a faithful British subject, am I not equally intitled to protection and redress with others? Let me reiterate to your Excellency that in prosperity and adversity; under evil report and good report, under oppression, insult and abuse, I have never ceased for a moment my fidelity to the British Government. Shall I, for my reward, meet with the most apathetic indifference and contempt? Is it not, my Lord a most extraordinary concatenation of events that I should suffer a reiteration of the most astounding acts of injustice for seven years in succession, and that every such act of injustice should be of that *peculiar* nature as to be beyond the power of redress? I am unable to *command* attention to my suffering. I am too weak to offer the motive of fear, or the exercise of the *Lex talionis*, as a motive to call attention to my deplorable case; I have nothing but the simple plea of justice to offer, yet that plea is strengthened—strongly supported by promises of the most solemn nature from the Throne, from the Home Government and from your Lordship's opening Speech at the first Session of the Parliament, after we had the happiness of your Lordship's presence in the Province. Shall all these promises, in the event, prove to be mere words without meaning? a mere "tub to the

whale," every trace of suspicion.

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I well know that much exertion will be made to strangle my memorial in the birth. The salvation of my persecutors depends altogether in keeping their conduct hid, "They hate the light, because their deeds are evil." It requires the head of a Solomon and the patience of a Job to unravel their deeds of darkness and of iniquity ; and they will call into exercise every effort to prevent an enquiry. They will use every means, both direct and indirect, that their *cunning* can devise, to prevent your Excellency from giving it that attention which justice loudly demands ; Such considerations have created a fervent desire to have the Memorial referred to the Home government, where the cause could be considered without the interruption of the base intrigues of Provincial delinquents or their supporters ; and where the calls of justice, though from a feeble individual, would be heard with attention.

I well know that it is in my own power to send my memorial to the foot of the Throne. However, as I have laid the business, in the first place, before your Excellency ; as your Lordship was sent to this country for the express purpose, to learn, and to redress the wrongs which now do, or *heretofore* have existed in Canada, it appears

to my understanding, that I have a just claim on your Lordship to redress, or at least to a reference of my memorial to where both the inclination and power exist for granting me justice. It being transmitted by your Lordship, with such remarks as you conscientiously believe you ought to make, will render its appearance of more grave importance and command more ready attention.

The simple question before your Lordship is, in my humble opinion, whether the facts, stated in my memorial, constitute a wrong? If they constitute a wrong, where am I to look for redress? Certainly to those who have made a solemn promise to that effect; and whose public duty is to redeem the pledge which their promises, have offered for the security of the subject. If the plainest cases of wrong are to be set aside and strangled in the birth with baffling excuses, where is the benefit of those flaming promises—of those solemn promises made to the subject for redress? They certainly *must* appear as a solemn mockery, and worse than the pains of Tantalus, to our disappointed expectations.

Should your Excellency entertain the least doubt in the representations set forth in my memorial, an *inquiry*, will set that doubt at rest. There is nothing would be more grateful to my feelings than an inquiry—such an inquiry, as to elicit “the truth, the *whole* truth, and nothing

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 would prove my greatest friend, but the bitterest
 enemy to my enemies.

Can it be in the number of possibilities, that
 the idea has been suggested to your Excellency,
 that, inasmuch as I have already suffered a very
 long series of bitter injustice, that I now ought
 to sit down tamely and silently under the bur-
 then, thereby allowing my enemies a *proscripture*
 right to the fruits of their wickedness? I can as-
 sure your Excellency, that so far from having my
 feelings rendered torpid and callous, under the
 long reiteration of abuses, they have become
 more and more accessible to the keenest sensa-
 tions—perhaps to a morbid degree. Should any
 thing of that kind appear to your Lordship, in this
 address, I appeal to your native benevolence and
 greatness of mind for a remission of the offence.

Can it likewise be possible that the plea has
 been offered, that your Lordship ought not to
 take cognizance of my complaint because it re-
 fers to wrongs done, not under your admi-
 nistration, when it is taken into consideration
 that the most particular object of your Excellen-
 cy's mission was to inquire into and *redress* all
 wrongs which had heretofore existed in this Pro-
 vince? Whilst your Lordship is attending to the
 complaints of the Canadians, which were alledg-
 ed to have happened coterminously with my

own, and neglecting mine, will it not appear to every reflecting mind, that the object of simple justice has not been the pole-star of our politics? The Canadians form a powerful body, who are able to *demand* justice ; I am a solitary individual unable to offer any motive of attention, but the simple plea of right—of injured and abused right.

When I take into consideration the soothing and animating declaration of your Lordship, that strict and impartial justice should be administered in this Province, a *solemn instruction* from the Home government that due attention should be paid to the petition of any class, or any individual of the Canadian population : that our Sovereign had declared from the Throne, that his first and most sacred duties was the “speedy and satisfactory administration of justice.” These public declarations coupled with the consideration that I have a memorial lying before your Excellency without any attention for more than six months, notwithstanding that memorial sets forth a narrative of the most horrid and outrageous wrongs perpetrated in constant succession, treading on the heels of each other, and putting humanity to the blush for the course of seven years ; and producing in their results, consequences of a monstrous, an appalling nature, have formed an enigma beyond my power to solve.

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I will frankly confess to your Lordship, that my long desponding hopes of justice were revived, when I saw so many and so fair *promises* made from the highest authorities. I did think, and with a confidence which admitted no doubt, that every duty which was incumbent on me was to make my grievances known, in order to ensure "speedy and satisfactory justice." In addition to this, the affairs of Canada were beginning to call the attention, and create an inquiry from the Home government; and I saw no kind of reason why my complaints should be excluded from attention, well aware that if they were once investigated, they would form a case which no government would dare to neglect, and which the *British government* would glory in rectifying.

I am altogether sensible that the amiable qualities and finer feelings of your Lordship's heart would influence you, as *a man*, with a wish to see me relieved from misery; but your benevolent designs, as *a man*, are unavailing; your Lordship's attention, as *a Governor*, can alone remove the evil. That the duties of a *Governor* should be at variance with the refined sentiments of the most amiable heart, is an apparent solicism to my weak understanding: yet, for the term of thirty years, I have found a *secret influence* hid in the most gloomy darkness, behind the gubernatorial Throne, defeating all my exertions, and preventing my demands for justice from any

attention, even so far as to gain an inquiry.

I need not name to your Lordship, that the first principles of Government are established in the necessity of "guarding the weak against the oppression of the strong." Allow me to call your attention to the *manner* in which this great duty has been executed in this Country. I was, in the first place, robbed by the officers of this Government, of all my property; and then, by them treated as the vilest criminal, *because I was poor!!* The most outrageous acts of injustice were tolerated against me, *because I was poor!!* The most indignant and silent contempt was cast on all my applications for redress, *because I was poor!!* I well know that this Government had the *power* to shut their ears to my complaints, but the present question is not of *power*, but it is a question of *justice*. I had my desponding hopes revived, my feelings cheered, by the combined *promises* of justice, from the highest authorities of the British government: I now wish to test those *promises*, by their conduct. Promises unaccomplished, prove nothing but the want of good faith in those who make them; and whether the most efficacious measures to destroy all confidence between the Governors and governed, be consonant to *true policy*, I humbly submit to your Excellency's superior wisdom. Have not the enormity of my wrongs, and their long continuance been urged as a reason against their

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redress !! and yet, with such monstrous exam-
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 who ought to be *examples* of every virtue, we, the
 poor, are called upon and pathetically exhorted
 to be virtuous and *loyal!!!*

Perhaps it may be urged that my wrongs are
 of such a peculiar nature, and arranged in such
 an anomalous class, as not to be included in the
 atmosphere of those promises. If so, why delude
 the subject with vain and fantastic hope? Why
 not candidly declare what wrongs were, and what
 were not to claim the attention of Governm^{ts},
 so far as to meet redress? It cannot be a mat-
 ter of doubt in the mind of your Excellency, that
 hope excited, for no other purpose but disap-
 pointment, is adding to the distress of the origi-
 nal abuse. It appears, to my humble under-
 standing, that the inferences which must be
 drawn from the present state of my affairs are,
 that the facts stated in my memorial, do not, in
 the view of the Government, constitute a wrong;
 or that the promises, made by the highest autho-
 rities, were made as a mere "tub to the whale,"
 without the least intention, that they should ever
 be realized. Such a view of the subject, calls
 for no comment from me; I submit it altogether
 for your Lordship's consideration; I well know
 that your Lordship has the *power*, in common,
 with your predecessors to refuse to listen to *my*
 complaints; to crush me beneath your over-

whelming advantage ; to stifle the cries for justice in every stage ; yet will it be beyond example should they ultimately, from a still " small voice," swell into the violence of a mighty tempest, and shake the scenes of injustice to their very foundations ! Pardon me my Lord, if any thing in this address may seem to convey a doubt of your Lordship's love of justice. I should consider myself unpardonable even to entertain such a suspicion ; much more to express it. Yet I know your Lordship to be surrounded with so many *interested* in suppressing the truth, that I wish to say all my feeble abilities will permit, to reach the truth through the medium of your Lordship.

My Lord, I am old and feeble—I can say no more—perhaps I have said too much already—I have said what my judgment has dictated. I am compelled to depend on my own resources altogether, by my isolated situation, without the council of the wiser and better informed. To your Excellency's goodness of heart, I appeal for my justification. Permit me, my Lord, to expect an answer to my Memorial, which may place at rest my fears and many anxieties.

Allow me, my Lord, the honor of expressing my *unaffected* sentiments of profound respect and high consideration.

STEPHEN BURROUGHS.

Three-Rivers, 10th December, 1836.

